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Services Division

Committee on European Satellites

(Eusat Committee Meeting - 15th Meeting 1330 6 June 1956)

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Present: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Deputy Chief, EE in OCI spoke on the subject of recent political changes in the European Satellites. He stated that, in his opinion, the political changes which had been reported during the past few months were real and fundamental. Major personality shifts and a greater reliance on collective leadership were seen as evidence of basic redirection in political policy. It was noted that the changes were not occurring uniformly throughout the satellite area, being quite pronounced in Poland but little reflected in Hungary and Albania. Hesitancy in the latter cases was attributed to the fact that internal political considerations required a more cautious adjustment to the new political trend.

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Much of the discussion centered on the question of Soviet control of the satellites. [REDACTED] believed that a larger but still limited degree of satellite freedom was developing. He felt that more subtle means of control by the USSR would be forthcoming. For instance, Soviet instructions or demands, in the future, would perhaps be channeled through local party officials rather than communicated by means of Soviet advisors dealing directly with various satellite ministries. With regard to economic policy, [REDACTED] was of the opinion that CEPA would continue to exercise considerable influence in terms of broad planning for the area but within this general framework the individual satellites would probably enjoy somewhat more freedom in determining the character of their economic development.

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Definite program arrangements have not yet been completed for the 13 June meeting. Should it not be possible to secure an outside speaker the meeting will be devoted to a discussion of significant current developments in the Eusat area. Members are urged to assemble promptly on Wednesday at 1330 in room 2125 N.

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Chairman

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